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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/694,355	PAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric M. Blount	2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to amendment filed September 29, 2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-12,16 and 17.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 09292005
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kien Le on December 6, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. In **claim 1**, line 2 insert the word -- is -- between the words "bellows" and "used".
- b. In **claim 1**, line 3 insert the word – is – before the word "covering".
- c. In **claim 1**, line 3 replace the word "protecting" with the word – protective –.
- d. In **claim 1**, line 6 replace the word "protecting" with the word – protective –.
- e. In **claim 1**, line 8 delete the word "the" between the words "toward" and "wafers".
- f. In **claim 4**, line 2 replace the word "protecting" with the word – protective –.
- g. In **claim 5**, line 2 replace the word "protecting" with the word – protective –.
- h. In **claim 8**, line 3 insert the word – is – between the words "water" and "leaking".
- i. In **claim 9**, line 3 insert the word – is – between the words "leaking" and "contacting".

- j. In **claim 11**, line 6 replace the word “protecting” with the word – protective –.
- k. In **claim 11**, line 8 delete the word “the” between the words “toward” and “wafers”.
- l. In **claim 11**, line 12 insert the word – is – between the words “water” and “leaking”.
- m. In **claim 12**, line 2 replace the word “protecting” with the word – protective –.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: **Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 16, and 17** are allowable over the prior art. The prior art of record fails to sufficiently describe or suggest an apparatus for monitoring and preventing leakage of process cooling water in a furnace wherein a bellows is used to deliver process cooling water and the bellows is covered with a protective tubing. A tray is under the bellows and comprises an anti-leak dish for receiving process cooling water drained out from two ends of the protective tubing. A shelter plate blocks the process cooling water sprinkling toward wafers. The wafers described are wafers in a batch type furnace during a thermal treatment step.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2636

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

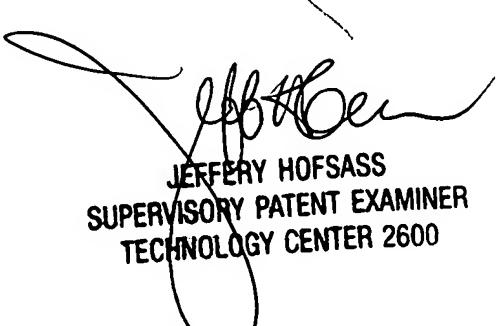
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2636

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JEFFERY HOFSSASS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600